



## **Litter Control & Mitigation for Interstate Routes Improvement Plan**

### **I. Introduction**

South Carolina has approximately 851 centerline miles of Interstate Highways. The interstate system includes 734 bridges and carries approximately 29% of the vehicular traffic. Litter control and pick-up is currently performed by The South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT). In addition, Palmetto Prideways, a program run by Palmetto Pride, allows sponsors to pay for litter control and pick up on segments of the interstate with SCDC providing the labor. Finally, the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) and SCDOT cooperatively work together to identify and remove hazardous debris from the interstate system.

### **II. Objective**

The interstate system carries approximately 29% of the vehicular traffic traveling in South Carolina and unsightly litter can have an adverse impact and negative perception to visitors, citizens, and businesses. In order to mitigate this issue, SCDOT, SCDC, and SCDPS have agreed to cooperatively work together to improve litter control on the interstate system. Each agency has jointly developed an improvement plan to accomplish this objective.

### **III. SCDOT Responsibilities**

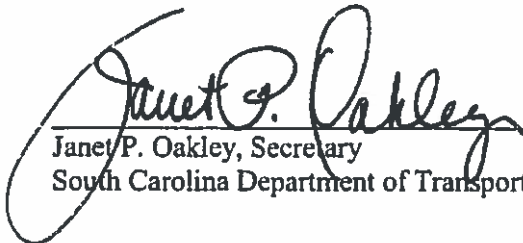
- A. Increase the current number of mowing cycles performed in a calendar year from 3 to 4 beginning in calendar year 2015. In addition, SCDOT will continue to coordinate with SCDC to perform litter pick-up prior to beginning a mowing operation.
- B. Coordinate with SCDC to promptly pick up and dispose of bagged litter and debris upon completion by a SCDC inmate crew of a segment of interstate.
- C. Develop a notification system that will be utilized by SCDOT maintenance crews to alert the SCDC of interstate segments with excessive litter or "hot spots".
- D. Create a monthly report from the notification system and forward it to SCDC.
- E. Continue to report annually on the volume of litter and debris removed from the interstate system in conjunction with our partners (SCDC & Palmetto Pride).
- F. Provide training to SCDOT District crews on the notification system, SCDC coordination, and identification of litter "hot spots".
- G. Review the interstate segments provided by SCDC where inmate labor cannot be utilized and develop a plan for litter control for those affected segments.
- H. Evaluate and increase the median barrier wall cleaning and sweeping cycles as necessary.
- I. Initiate a litter public awareness campaign in conjunction with our partners and stakeholders.

#### **IV. SCDC Responsibilities**

- A. SCDC litter crews will patrol established Interstate routes to clean up litter from the State's Interstate highways.
- B. When notified by SCDPS or SCDOT of excessive interstate litter areas ("hot spots"), SCDC litter crews will respond to the excessive litter areas to perform litter cleanup activities.
- C. Excessive Interstate litter areas ("hot spots") will be regarded as priority cleanup areas by SCDC's litter crews.
- D. SCDC's litter program coordinator will notify SCDOT's point of contact via email of interstate pickup sites for collected litter by SCDC's litter crews.
- E. SCDC litter crews will remove and cleanup litter from the interstate medians that can be safely entered and maintained. SCDC's litter program coordinator will notify SCDOT's point of contact via email of interstate medians that require litter maintenance, but cannot be safely entered due to overgrowth or other hazards.
- F. When notified of interstate mowing schedules by SCDOT, SCDC litter crews will adjust litter pick-up schedules accordingly.
- G. SCDC litter crews will not be permitted to perform litter cleanup in interstate areas that require the litter crews to cross State lines in order to turn around. SCDC's point of contact will notify SCDOT's point of contact via email of these areas when litter maintenance is required.

#### **V. SCDPS Responsibilities**

- A. Inform law enforcement personnel regarding their responsibilities to survey interstates and report areas of excessive litter.
- B. Report areas of excessive litter to the Telecommunications Officer (TCO).
- C. The TCO will forward the information to the designated SCDC point-of-contact (POC) via e-mail.
- D. The TCO will create a Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) entry and title the entry "Litter on the Interstate" as reported by personnel.
- E. SCDPS will create a monthly report from the CAD and forward it to the designated SCDC POC.



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